

The following invention is claimed:

1. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for extracting information from a Page/Image Archive (PIA) file in response to a user-selected parameter, which when executed by a computer:

5 receive at least one user-selected parameter related to the information to be extracted from the PIA file;

receive the PIA formatted file;

convert the PIA file to a file format suitable for extraction of information based upon the user-selected parameter;

10 extract information from the converted PIA file based on the user-selected parameter; and

expose the extracted information.

2. The computer-readable medium of claim 1, wherein the extracted information is exposed a computer process that uses statistical algorithms to discover patterns and correlations in the extracted information.

3. A computer implemented process for extracting information from a Page/Image Archive (PIA) file in response to a user-selected parameter and, comprising:

20 receiving at least one user-selected parameter related to the information to be extracted from the PIA file;

receiving the PIA formatted file;

converting the PIA file to a file format suitable for extraction of information based upon the user-selected parameter;

25 extracting information from the converted PIA file based on the user-selected parameter; and

exposing the extracted information.

4. The computer-implemented process of claim 3, wherein the extracted information is exposed to a computer process that uses statistical algorithms to discover patterns and correlations in the extracted information.

5. A computer system for extracting information from a Page/Image Archive (PIA) file in response to a user-selected parameter and exposing it to a tool for discovery of implicit, previously unknown, and potentially useful information, comprising:

a processor;

a memory storage device coupled to the processor for maintaining the PIA file and the user-selected parameter;

the processor being operative to conduct the following tasks:

receive at least one user-selected parameter related to the information to be extracted from the PIA file;

receive the PIA formatted file;

convert the PIA file to a file format suitable for extraction of information based upon the user-selected parameter;

extract information from the converted PIA file based on the user-selected parameter; and

expose the extracted information.